Uncoiling
Pat Mora

With thorns, she scratches
on my window, tosses her hair dark with rain,

snares lightning, cholla, hawks, butterfly

swarms in the tangles.

5 She sighs clouds,
head thrown back, eyes closed, roars

and rivers leap,
boulders retreat like crabs

into themselves.

10 She spews gusts and thunder,
spooks pale women who scurry to

lock doors, windows

when her tumbleweed skirt starts its spin.

They sing lace lullabies
15 so their children won’t hear
her uncoiling

through her lips, howling

leaves off trees, flesh

off bones, until she becomes

sound, spins herself

to sleep, sand stinging her ankles,

whirring into her raw skin like stars.

Vocabulary Development: snares (snayrz) v. catches in a trap
spews (spyooz) v. sprays

1. cholla (CHOH yah) n. spiny cactus found in the southwestern United States and Mexico.